

REMARKS

The Official Action dated 03 May 2005 has been carefully considered, along with cited references, applicable sections of the Patent Act, Patent Rules, the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure and relevant decisional law.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Riley (U.S. Patent No. 5,222,988). Riley ('988) discloses a clasp device for attaching to a sheet material, and comprising: a male member (20) including a piercing member (35), and a female member (40) including a bore (through socket 55) formed therein to receive said piercing member (35) of said male member (20).

Claims 1-5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Cameron (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2005/0063773).

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Riley ('988).

However, the Examiner has kindly indicated that claim 7 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, claim 7 which is indicated to be allowable has been deleted, and has been included into claim 1. Claim 6 to which claim 7 is dependent thereon has also been deleted and has also been included into claim 1.

Claims 2, 4, and 8-10 are dependent on the amended claim 1.

Claim 3 is dependent on claim 2.

Claim 5 is dependent on claim 4.

Accordingly, claims 1-5 and 8-10 would appear to be allowable, and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is accordingly most respectfully solicited.

Courtesy and cooperation of Examiner SANDY are appreciated.

respectfully submitted,

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